



Medical Facilities Development and University Expansion

September 2011



Background

Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSA Bethesda) is a Navy-owned 243 acre military health care, medical education and research installation located in Bethesda, Maryland. The National Institutes of Health main campus is directly west of NSA Bethesda. Interstate 495 is adjacent to the northeastern corner of the installation.

NSA Bethesda is now the home of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda (WRNMMCB), after the 2005 Base Closure and Realignment (BRAC) mandated relocation of the tertiary medical services from Walter Reed Army Medical Center (WRAMC). WRNMMCB is the new name of the former National Naval Medical Center and is now the premier Department of Defense (DoD) medical center offering intensive and complex specialty and subspecialty medical services for the most seriously injured personnel from all military services, and serves as the major medical referral center for the DoD.

NSA Bethesda is also the home of the Uniformed Services University of Health Services (USUHS), called the "West Point of Medicine," which provides the nation with health professionals dedicated to career service in the DoD and the United States Public Health Service. The institution is the nation's only fully accredited federal School of Medicine and School of Graduate Nursing.

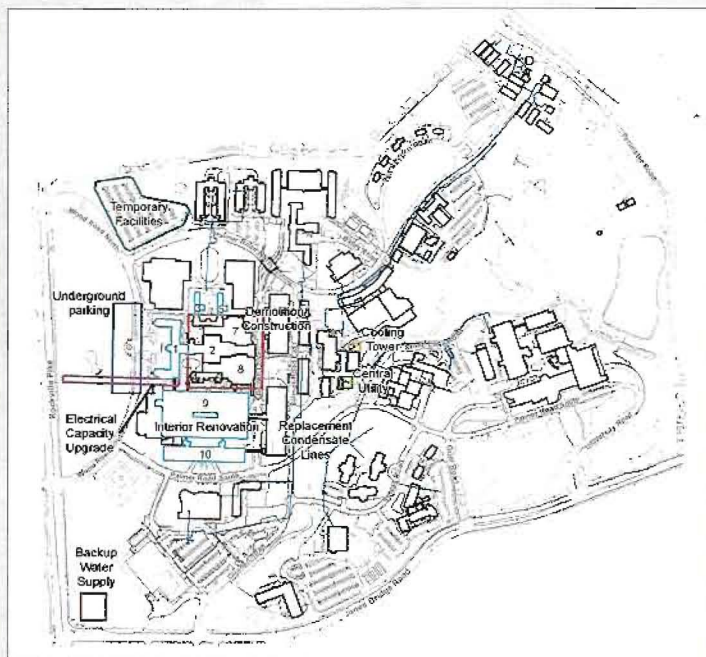
Proposed Actions

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with the following proposed actions at NSA Bethesda: Medical Facilities Development and the USUHS Expansion. The Proposed Actions will enhance and support but not add to missions and functions of the installation, medical center and the USUHS. The potential impacts of the proposed actions on the number of staff, patients, and visitors will be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS will also include a traffic study, which will be based on the post BRAC conditions.

Medical Facilities Development

- Demolition of Buildings 2, 4, 6, 7, and 8 at the medical center core
- Construction of a 5-story single facility, "Building C," (approximately 563,000 SF) in the same basic footprint
- Construction of a 500-space underground parking garage in the front lawn
- Utility upgrades to the accommodate the new facilities
- Temporary medical facilities in the parking lot, lot-G, in the northwest corner of the installation to provide uninterrupted medical care during the construction period
- Interior renovations in Buildings 1, 3, 5, 9, and 10

NSA Bethesda





Uniformed Services University of the Health Services Expansion

- Construction of a new research/education facility, "Building F" (approximately 341,000 SF)
- Construction of a 400-space parking structure

Alternatives to be Analyzed in the EIS

Medical Facilities Development –

Parking Garage Alternative Sites:

- Warehouse site in the northeast corner
- Taylor Road site in the northeast site
- H-Lot site in the south site

USUHS Expansion – Two Alternative Sites (for both the facility and parking structure):

- Alternative 1 located south of the existing USUHS campus
- Alternative 2 located west of the existing USUHS campus

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative is required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and describes the conditions at NSA Bethesda should the proposed actions not occur.



Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Medical Facilities Development is to implement the Congressional mandate from the Fiscal Year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act to achieve the new statutory world-class standards for military medicine at the WRNMMCB by providing enduring facilities commensurate in quality, capability and condition as those provided by the BRAC investment. The Medical Facilities Development is needed because current space is insufficient to meet world class standards such as decompression to single occupancy patient rooms, a state-of-the-art simulation center, and a health innovation center.

The purpose of, and need for, the Medical Facilities Development was identified subsequent to the programming for BRAC 2005, which was specifically designed to accommodate the transfer of WRAMC to WRNMMCB and was never intended to address the mission capability or functionality of the existing infrastructure.

The purpose of the USUHS Expansion is to consolidate fragmented infrastructure located on and off NSA Bethesda because departments, centers and activities are currently dispersed in 19 inadequate and temporary spaces at the installation or off-campus leased space in Rockville, Maryland. The USUHS Expansion is needed to address significant space and operational limitations for research and education activities due to the fragmented, aging, and inefficient infrastructure. The USUHS Expansion is also needed to meet current Liaison Committee on Medical Education accreditation requirements to support WRNMMCB as a world renowned biomedical research, education and patient care facility.

Resources to be Examined

The EIS will evaluate potential impacts of the proposed actions to the following resources, with post BRAC conditions as the baseline:

- Geology, Topography, and Soils
- Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise
- Utilities/ Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Cultural Resources
- Land Use
- Socioeconomics
- Human Health and Safety
- Cumulative Impacts

Current Projects and Potential Future Development

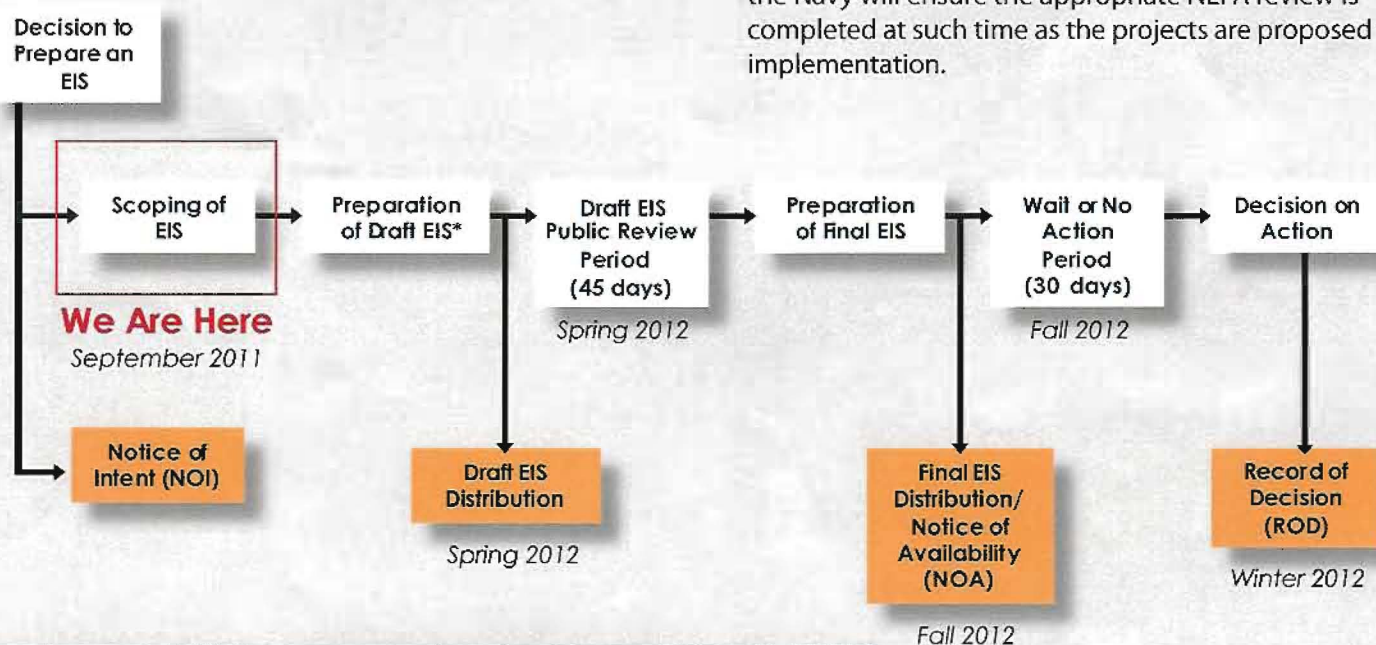
The proposed actions are two components of the 2012 NSA Bethesda Master Plan that the Navy is currently updating and the EIS will analyze the implementation of those components.

The 2012 NSA Bethesda Master Plan also reflects ongoing projects previously considered under NEPA as well as potential future development opportunities at NSA Bethesda.

- The EIS will evaluate the cumulative effects of the proposed actions in the context of the known, ongoing activities and identify the potential programmatic effects of the proposed actions in the context of the potential future development opportunities. Therefore, the EIS will analyze the environmental effects of the 2012 NSA Bethesda Master Plan relative to the implementation of the proposed actions in this EIS.

- For the potential future development opportunities, the Navy will ensure the appropriate NEPA review is completed at such time as the projects are proposed for implementation.

EIS Process



*Studies to be Included in the EIS:

- Traffic Study/ Transportation Management Plan
- Geotechnical study for the underground parking garage
- National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility for the AFRRRI complex

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